



ROCHESTER

FIRE DEPARTMENT

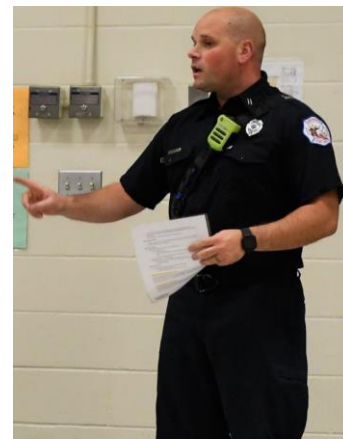
Media Blast

March 2021

- **Spring Rookie Academy:** RFD will welcome several new recruits this spring to fill vacancies left by recent retirements. The recruits will undertake a 10-week Rookie Academy beginning Thurs., March 25, under the direction of RFD Captain Jeremy Dostal. The new recruits all have their state Firefighter 1 and 2 certifications, as well as national EMT certification. During the academy, they will be trained on the operational strategies and practices utilized by RFD. Due to Covid-related restrictions, media access to the academy training will be limited. Please contact Captain Dostal at JDostal@rochestermn.gov to discuss possible media access.



- **Recruitment Outreach:** Since 2001, fire departments all over the nation have seen a steady decline in the number of qualified individuals applying to take firefighter entrance exams. The Rochester Fire Department is no different and, as such, members of the department's Public Relations Group have worked proactively to speak with students in fire science degree programs throughout the area. The goal of these visits is to raise awareness of employment opportunities and benefits at RFD. So far, RFD members have visited Lake Superior College in Duluth, Western Technical College in Sparta, Wis., and Century College in White Bear Lake. Later this spring, RFD will travel to Chippewa Valley Technical College in Eau Claire, Wis. In total, RFD members will have spoken to roughly 80 fire students, who will soon be eligible to test for fire department positions. With several other recruiting and promotional plans



in the works, RFD hopes to continue helping build interest in the fire service locally and around the region.

- **Accelerated Ice Melt:** With days lengthening and warmer weather in the forecast heading into March, falling through thin ice is already a concern in 2021. This includes small children who become more active and start to explore as the weather gets warmer. But with the nicer weather comes more dangerous ice on lakes, ponds and rivers. Ice around the edges of water often becomes thinner earlier than ice further out. And with the more intense sunlight, the ice actually begins to act like glass in a greenhouse, warming the water beneath and melting the ice from below. RFD urges everyone to be vigilant around the ice as spring approaches. And remember, ice is never 100% safe. For tips on what to do if you or someone else falls through the ice, go [here](#).



Training Calendar

Regularly scheduled RFD training has been modified and/or closed to media coverage due to the pandemic and social distancing.

Requests for comment or information on safety topics or RFD incident response can be sent to FirePublicRelations@rochestermn.gov